

## CLAIMS

1. A method for updating CRL information between distributed components in a PKI environment, comprising:
  - sequentially receiving a plurality of periodically updated versions of a CRL associated with a certificate authority;
  - generating a plurality of DeltaCRL data elements by reference to sequentially adjacent CRL versions from the received CRL versions;
  - providing the DeltaCRLs to a node in a distributed PKI environment; and
  - the node sequentially applying the DeltaCRLs to a base CRL to provide increasingly updated versions of said CRL, the base CRL being a version of the CRL within the timeframe of said periodically updated sequence of CRLs.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a hash value corresponding to each DeltaCRL, the hash value generated by reference sequentially adjacent CRL versions from the received CRL versions.